

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MESSAGE TO FOREIGN SECRETARY
RABASA -- MIDDLE EAST.

PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY
KISSINGER TO FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA.

QUOTE MY DEAR EMILIO:

I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM THIS LATEST TRIP TO
THE MIDDLE EAST AND WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF
MY OBSERVATIONS AND IMPRESSIONS ON WHERE MATTERS
STAND.

OUR OBJECTIVE ON THIS TRIP WAS
.TO OVERCOME THE LAST OBSTACLES TO STARTING
A SYRIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATION ON THE DISENGAGEMENT
OF THEIR MILITARY FORCES ON THE SYRIAN FRONT AND
TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCT-
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ING THAT NEGOTIATION. IN THIS WE SUCCEEDED.

SYRIA MADE AVAILABLE THE LIST OF ISRAELI PRISONERS OF WAR IT HOLDS AND PERMITTED THE RED CROSS TO BEGIN VISITING THEM ON MARCH 1. EACH SIDE HAS GIVEN US ITS IDEAS ON DISENGAGEMENT. ISRAEL WILL NOW SEND A HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE TO WASHINGTON IN

THE NEAR FUTURE TO CONTINUE THESE DISCUSSIONS WITH ME, AND A SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVE WILL FOLLOW. DISENGAGEMENT IN THIS AREA WILL BE DIFFICULT, BUT A PROCESS HAS BEEN STARTED AND I SHALL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HELP THE TWO SIDES REACH AGREEMENT.

MEANWHILE, IT IS A SOURCE OF GREAT SATISFACTION TO ALL INVOLVED THAT THE JANUARY EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED WITH SCRUPULOUS GOOD FAITH ON BOTH SIDES. ALL OF US CAN HOPE THAT THIS IS AN INDICATION THAT AGREEMENTS CAN BE REACHED BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS NEIGHBORS IN A WAY THAT CONTRIBUTES TO PROGRESS TOWARD AN OVERALL PEACE. WE CONSIDER ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN DISENGAGEMENT AND ISRAELI-SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT TO BE ASPECTS OF A SINGLE PHASE OF STABILIZING THE SITUATION MILITARILY AND REDUCING TENSION, IN ORDER TO CREATE CONDITIONS IN WHICH PROGRESS CAN BE MADE TOWARD PEACE IN FUTURE PHASES OF THE GENEVA PROCESS.

I INTEND TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF OUR OBJECTIVES AND PROGRESS, EMILIO, AND HOPE THAT I CAN SOON DO SO PERSONALLY -- PERHAPS AT MY FAVORITE VACATION SPOT IN MEXICO.

WITH WARM REGARDS,

HENRY UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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NNN

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